

Dhaka Day by Day

Paper with a Difference

by Rahat Fahmida

"I always want to avoid chemicals, and utilise local materials. This will, in the long run help grow our industries. I believe, it is not very wise to rely mainly on imported materials," said Sultan Ahmed. He is indeed an inventor. Timid, and frail Ahmed wears a deceptive look. One can hardly guess what hard work he has put in for his innovations and is overflowing with many more ideas.

This 60 year old Ahmed is a cloth merchant from Munshiganj. About 16 years back, he has, by processes devised by himself, made paper from 'kash' — a plant which grows in abundance on river banks. With no formal technical education, he also produced paper from water hyacinth.

Looking back into his years of research, it was understood that this cloth merchant has always been innovative. He also inherited book binding business from his father. And this is what set him apart.

On a rainy day, when Ahmed was waiting at the doorstep of his binding shop for the rain to stop, a wet straw-board caught his attention. He took the wet board home and soaked it in water, to strain the thick fluid.

This revealed the raw materials used for this imported board. Later the next day, he dried the strained fluid and got a straw board once again. He then started looking for materials locally available.

Water hyacinth caught his attention. This plant, which grows in abundance and costs nothing, is always sought for destroying. Ahmed worked at it to discover if it can be a substitute for valuable bamboo pulps as raw material for manufacturing pulps and scarce bamboo resources may be conserved. His innovative products are quite comparable to the imported ones.

Ahmed has been researching in this line and also on some Ayurvedic medicines for more

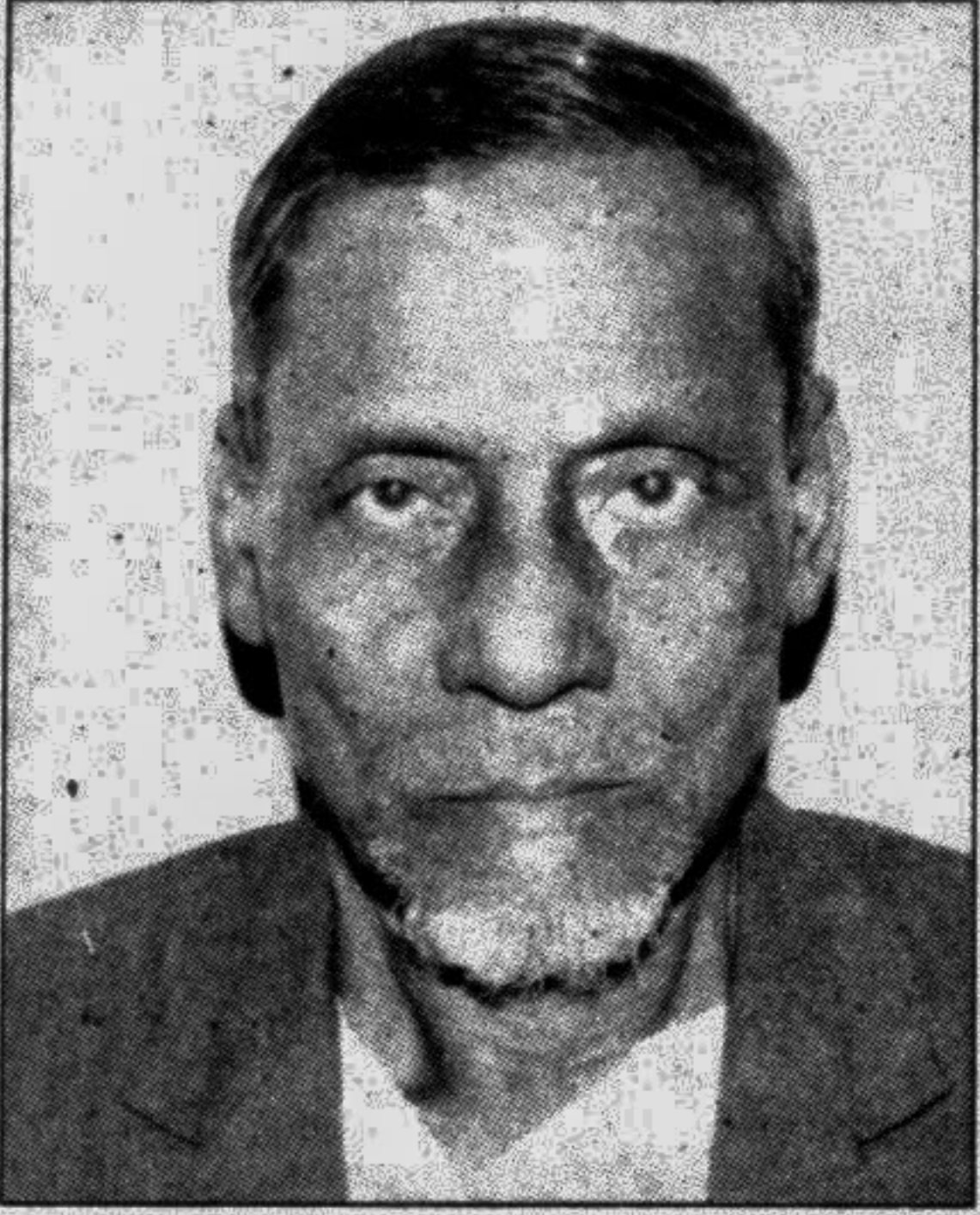
than 22 years. His wife and children were not happy about the intensity of his devotion to his research work. It so happened that once his wife, disgusted by his dedication, threw away his work of eight long years. But that did not put an end to Ahmed's research. He started from scratch and it took him two more years to retrieve his lost labour of eight years.

This cloth merchant's economic limitation held him back from going into large scale production and marketing of the products. A few newspapers publicised this innovator some 15

years back, which drew the attention of the then President Ziaur Rahman. Ahmed said, he was called in by the late Ziaur Rahman and offered to support him for setting up a factory through Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC). Prior to this Ahmed's products were sent to Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR) for testing the quality of pulp, from where they issued quite a satisfactory report.

However, Ahmed was not that lucky in the long run. BSCIC required him to have a certain amount of capital, which was beyond his means. After approaching the president again on this issue, he was promised an amount from the President's fund to be paid to Ahmed in the next 15 days. But sadly enough for this innovator, just three days after this meeting, the President was assassinated. And ever since Ahmed has been praying for a miracle to really set up a factory for him.

Now he is hoping to revive his programme for a large scale production unit. That is one of the reasons Sultan Ahmed comes to Dhaka from Munshiganj, in order to work out a way to reach his prayer to the prime minister. Once he sets up a factory he aims to work and invent various other products by local materials.



406 cases under Anti-terrorism Act instituted

A total of 406 cases have been instituted under the Anti-terrorism Act between September 15, 1992 and January 20 this year, official sources said here yesterday, reports BSS.

Of these, 99 cases are for illegal toll collection, 128 for hijacking, 112 cases for creating terrorism, 32 for damage and destruction of property, 19 cases for leasing females, 13 cases for damaging vehicles, two for obstructing traffic movement and one for obstructing submission of tender.

Amongst these cases, final reports of 60 cases have already been submitted, 68 cases are under investigation and 261 cases are under trial. 736 persons have been arrested and 278 chargesheets have been issued on the basis of these cases.

The highest number of 153 cases have been instituted in the Dhaka Metropolitan area.

BNP to implement 19-pt programmes of Zia: Mannan

State Minister for Religious Affairs Prof M A Mannan yesterday called upon the people to work unitedly to consolidate the established process of democracy to make it a permanent system of government, reports BSS.

Addressing a cross section of people at Gazipur, the state minister said the present government had been working ceaselessly to change the lot of the teeming millions through launching country-wide people oriented programmes. He said the government of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia would do everything to implement the 19-point programmes initiated by Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman.

He said, all people-oriented activities of the government would yield good result if peace and discipline was maintained in every sphere of life. He urged all to rally under BNP to ensure a happy future for all.

Speaking about the forthcoming pourashava election, the state minister said all necessary measures had been taken to hold a free, fair and smooth election. He urged all to keep vigilant eyes against the disturbing elements during pourashava elections.

Tk 12,500 cr required to create 2.5m jobs annually

Too much of bureaucracy, volatile labour market and archaic legal institutions coupled with high taxation and smuggling are blocking foreign investment into the country, observed a leading multinational company chief yesterday, reports UNB.

"These are the factors for foreign investors' lack of confidence in putting money here... and confidence is the single big word as far as investment is concerned," said a Hasnat Khan, Managing Director of Bangladesh Oxygen Ltd.

Khan estimated Bangladesh required Tk 12,500 crore in investment every year to create 2.5 million jobs annually. The resource-scarce country has no alternative to having foreign investment, he said.

Khan was presenting a paper on "Problems and Issues for Promoting Direct Foreign Investment (FDI) in Bangladesh" at an ESCAP-sponsored seminar. The three-day national seminar on Private Sector Growth, Technology Choice and Investment in Industrial Development of Bangladesh is in progress in the NEC auditorium.

"We suffer from compla-

cence that we have the best set of rules and incentive regime and sit idle... but there is no gain for year," Khan, the past President of Foreign Investors' Chamber, lamented.

Instead of coming new FDI, he said, growing dissatisfaction resulted in withdrawal of several multinationals which, he cautioned, would have a damaging adverse impact on future foreign investment in the country.

Five major multinationals recently left Bangladesh and rest are not expanding, or even reducing the level of their fixed investment, as the BOL chief observed, "most of them are incurring losses" in the existing adverse investment climate.

Khan particularly held bureaucratic tangles that deter implementation of policies responsible for the current standstill. "Bangladesh is full of bureaucracy," he alleged.

A worried Khan appealed to the policy-makers to immediately reverse the current situation if "they really mean for-

ign investment." "Billions of dollars are flowing in a country like Vietnam... 97 countries relaxed regulations to attract foreign investment, any delay would mean Bangladesh left out forever."

A number of sitting and retired bureaucrats took part in a parody of Khan's paper. They didn't make much effort to defend themselves against the allegation of red-tapism.

"Policy formulation failed to keep pace with implementation in Bangladesh, there should be less government," said Foreign Secretary Reza Rahman.

Former Secretary Kazi Azhar Ali suggested shifting of some regulatory functions to trade bodies.

Peter Grants, First Secretary at the British High Commission, said Bangladesh required to reverse its image abroad for netting foreign investment. He also stressed stability of policies.

DG of ILO due today

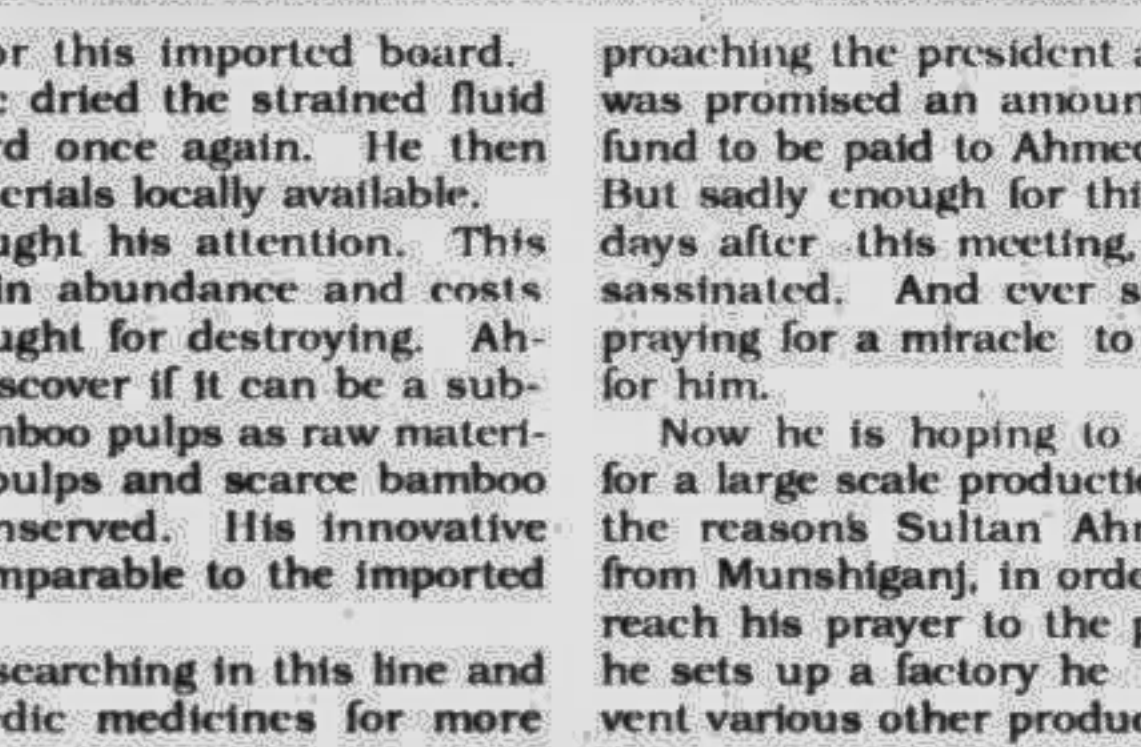
Director General of the International Labour Organisation Michel Hansenne arrives in Dhaka today (Monday) on a two-day official visit to Bangladesh, reports UNB.

Hansenne will call on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, Industries Minister Shamsul Islam Khan and Labour and Manpower Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan during his stay, said an official announcement today.

The ILO Director General will also place wreaths at the National Memorial at Savar to pay homage to Bangladesh's independence martyrs.

He will hold meetings with the representatives of workers, employers, local ILO staff and project managers.

The visit to the ILO executive is expected to strengthen the cooperation between Bangladesh and ILO, the first international organisation of which Bangladesh became a member after liberation.



Workshop on 'Women in Development' begins today

A two-day international workshop on "Women in Development: Bangladesh and Indonesia" begins in the city Monday, reports BSS.

State Minister for Women Affairs Sarwari Rahman will inaugurate the workshop at a hotel at 10 am.

The inaugural session of the workshop will be addressed, among others by, Indonesian Assistant Minister for Education Ms. Sjamsiah Achmad, Managing Director of Gramscian Bank Dr Mohammad Yunus, senior official of the Indonesian national family planning coordination board Dr Srihartati P. Pandu, Secretary of the Ministry of Women Affairs Enamul Haq and Chairman of the Center for Development Research, Bangladesh (CDRI) Dr Muztur Rahman Shetty.

Professor of Sociology Department, Dhaka University, Dr Mahmuda Islam and Vice Chairperson of Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad Professor Khakda Salahuddin will present the key-note paper.

What's on today . . .

Seminar on private sector

The concluding session of the national seminar on "Private sector growth, technology choice and investment in industrial development of Bangladesh" jointly organised by the government, ESCAP and BCI will be held today (Monday) at 3 pm at NEC Block, Planning Commission.

Mahila Parishad rally

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad will hold a rally today (Monday) at 3 pm in front of Jatiya Press Club protesting the killing of Nurjahan and communalism.

Rotary Club of Dhaka Central

The regular weekly meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka Central will be held today (Monday) at 1:00 pm at Family Lounge, Dhaka Club.

Prof AK Azad Khan, Director of BIRDEM, will be the guest speaker.

Sramik League Council

The 7th council of Bangladesh Sramik League will be held today (Monday) in the Engineers Institute premises.

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina will be the chief guest on the occasion.

Z M Kamrul Anam, President of the organisation and General Secretary of the CBA of BTMC will preside. Awami League leader Amir Hossain AMU and leaders of the International Textile Union will attend the council session.

Inner Wheel Club of Dhaka Buriganga

Inner Wheel Club of Dhaka Buriganga will hold its charter presentation and installation ceremony today (Monday) at 5 pm at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel.

Stop oppression on women, urges Mohila Parishad

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Mohila Parishad, an organisation for women yesterday called upon all to resist oppression on women.

In a press conference at its central office at Segunbagicha, General Secretary of the organisation Ayesha Khanom alleged that women were being oppressed frequently in the name of religious judgement.

Referring to the recent tragic death of Nur Jahan at Chhatokchhara village under Kamolganj of Maulvi Bazar district, Ayesha said that despite the country's existing laws some imams were giving

'fatwa' to condemn women for their 'guilt'.

She said since a local Imam termed Nur Jahan's second marriage illegal, she was condemned to death hurling 101 stones on January 10 this year. Ayesha demanded punishment to those responsible for killing of Nurjahan and ban on such 'fatwa'.

The General Secretary also referred to recent attack on women and children on the issue of Babri Mosque and the attack on the residents at Halishahar in Chittagong by navymen.

She demanded compensations for those who became victims of the incidents and reconstruction of the temples damaged during the incidents.

She also urged the government to ban communal politics in Bangladesh.

In her address, Begum Sufia Karnal, president of the organization regretted that no political party had expressed reaction over the tragic death of Nurjahan. "As nothing was done on the issue we would like to wake up people through this press conference," she added.

Chitra Bhattacharya, Vice-President and Baby Maudud, Secretary of the Organization were present at the Press conference.



Monday

5:00 Opening announcement. Al-Quran Programme summary

5:10 News in Bangla

5:25 Cartoon: I Want to Know

5:35 Sports programme

6:30 Open University

7:00 TV Debate

8:00 News in Bangla

8:30 Apsara Doctor

9:00 Bhara Nachr Barak

10:00 News in English

10:30 Drama series: Oshin

11:30 Khabar /The News

11:40 Tomorrow's programme summary

11:45 Closing

Weather No change in night temperature

By Staff Correspondent

Prevailing moderate cold wave is likely to persist over the country for another 48 hours commencing 6 pm Sunday, Meteorological office forecasts.

Dry weather with clear sky will prevail during the period while night temperature will remain nearly unchanged. Met office said.

Country's lowest temperature yesterday was 5 degree Celsius at Ishwardi.

The sun sets today (Monday) in Dhaka at 5:30 pm and rises tomorrow (Tuesday) at 6:42 am.

Temperature and humidity recorded in important cities and towns on Sunday were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in degree Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	23.5	7.9	59	50
Chittagong	23.5	10.7	78	56
Rajshahi	23.5	5.5	61	53
Khulna	24.5	7.9	97	60
Barisal	24.4	7.2	78	75
Cox's Bazar	25.0	12.2	61	59
Sylhet	21.8	10.3	92	70
Dinajpur	20.7	7.2	87	76

ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন
যাত্রিক বিভাগ-১

আপনার পরিবেশ সুন্দর ও পরিষ্কার রাখুন
আপনার শিককে ঠিকা দিন।

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশনের যাত্রিক সার্কেলের তালিকাভুক্ত টিকাদারগণের নিকট হইতে নিম্নে বর্ণিত কাজের জন্য বাংলাদেশ ফরম নং ২২১১ এ সীলমোহরকৃত বাসে দরপত্র আহবান করা যাইতেছে। দরপত্র আশাশ্রী ৩১-১-৯৩ ইং (১৮-১০-৯২ বা) তারিখ বেলা ১২-০০ ঘটিকা নাগাদ নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, যাত্রিক-১, সকল আঞ্চলিক নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তা এবং মহা ব্যবস্থাপক, পরিবহন এর দপ্তরে সম্মুখে রক্ষিত টেডার বাসে গ্রহণ করা হইবে এবং একই দিন বেলা ১২-৩০ ঘটিকার সময় উপস্থিত দরপত্রদাতা অথবা তাদের প্রতিনিধিদের সম্মুখে (যদি উপস্থিত থাকেন) খোলা হইবে। প্রাপ্তিত দরপত্র শতকরা ৫% (পাঁচ) ভাগ ব্যয়নার টাকা (ফেরতযোগ্য) হিসাবে মেয়র, ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশনের অনুমুখে যে কোন সিডিউল বাসে এর ব্যাক ড্রাকট অথবা পে-অর্ডার আকারে দরপত্রের সাথে সংযুক্ত করিতে হইবে। অন্যথায় দরপত্র বাতিল বলিয়া গণ্য করা হইবে। শতকরা হিসাবে দর অংক এবং কথা উভয়েই পরিষ্কারভাবে উল্লেখ করিতে হইবে। প্রাপ্তিত অংকের শতকরা ৫% (পাঁচ) ভাগ অধিক অথবা নিম্ন প্রদত্ত দরপত্র অন্য দর বিজ্ঞপ্তি (এনোয়াইসিস) দাখিল করিতে হইবে। প্রকৌশল বিভাগ, যাত্রিক-১, সকল আঞ্চলিক নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তার দপ্তর এবং হিসাব বিভাগ হইতে কাজের পার্শ্ব বর্ণিত মূল্যের (অফেরতযোগ্য) বিনিময়ে দরপত্র সিডিউল গ্রহণ করা যাইবে। দরপত্র খোলার তারিখে কোন সিডিউল বিক্রয় করা হইবে না।

কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন প্রকার কারণ প্রদর্শন ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন অথবা সমুদয় দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

ক্রমিক নং	কাজের নাম	প্রাপ্তিত অংক	সিডিউলের মূল্য	সময়সীমা
১।	ঢাকা-ন-৪৩৬১ ফুল টাক মেয়ামত	টাক ৪৭,৭৪০/-	৩০০/-	২০ দিন
২।	ঢাকা মেট্রো-৪-০২-০৪১ ইসুজু টুপার জীপ মেয়ামত	টাক ৬৭,৩০০/-	৩০০/-	২০ দিন
৩।	ঢাকা মেট্রো-৪-০২-০২৪ হাইস্কোবাস মেয়ামত	টাক ৭২,৮৯০/-	৩০০/-	২৫ দিন
৪।	ঢাকা-৩-৩৭৪৪ ট্রাটা করোলা কার কুচা জোড়পেছর মেয়ামত	টাক ৭৬,৮৫০/-	৩০০/-	২৫ দিন
৫।	ঢাকা-ন-৭৫৬৫ মিতসুবিশি টাক মেয়ামত	টাক ৩৫,২১০/-	৩০০/-	২০ দিন
৬।	ঢাকা-ন-৪৭৫৭ মিতসুবিশি ফুল টাক মেয়ামত	টাক ৫৭,২০৫/-	৩০০/-	২৫ দিন

নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী
যাত্রিক বিভাগ-১
ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন

ডিসিপি/পিয়ারডি/৩৩০/৯২/৩০
ডি-৫৮

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- * Filmfair Video, Sobhanbagh Tel: 314718, 316201
- * Swiss Bakery, New Bailey Road Tel: 834121
- * Rainbow, New Elephant Road.

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সংবিধিত সতর্কীকরণঃ যুগমান সাহায্যে জনা কৃতিকর

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